

Acts 24:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was called forth, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, Seeing that by thee we enjoy great quietness, and that very worthy deeds are done unto this nation by thy providence,

Analysis

Tertullus began with flattery: 'we enjoy great quietness, and very worthy deeds are done unto this nation by thy providence.' This rhetorical strategy sought to predispose Felix favorably. 'Providence' (pronoias) attributed divine-like care to a corrupt governor.

Historical Context

Tertullus, a hired Roman orator, followed standard rhetorical conventions. Felix's actual rule was marked by brutality and corruption, making this flattery particularly ironic.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing flattery help discern false accusations?

2. What does Tertullus's rhetoric teach about legal manipulation?

Interlinear Text

κληθέντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἥρξατο κατηγορεῖν ὁ
when he was called forth And G846 began to accuse G3588
G2564 G1161 G756 G2723

Τέρτυλλος λέγων, Πολλῆς εἰρήνης τυγχάνοντες
Tertullus him saying great quietness we enjoy
G5061 G3004 G4183 G1515 G5177

διὰ σοῦ καὶ κατορθωμάτων γινομένων τῷ ἔθνει
Seeing that by thee and that very worthy deeds are done G3588 nation
G1223 G4675 G2532 G2735 G1096 G1484

τούτῳ διὰ τῆς σῆς προνοίας
unto this Seeing that by G3588 thy providence
G5129 G1223 G4674 G4307

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 26:28 (Parallel theme): A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

Proverbs 29:5 (Parallel theme): A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.